

## RBS and RUS, USDA

## §4284.601

in a higher score. Budgets will be reviewed for completeness and the quality of non Federal funding commitments.

(i) *Qualifications of those Performing the Tasks.* The application will be evaluated to determine if the personnel expected to perform key center tasks have a track record of positive solutions for complex Cooperative development or marketing problems, or a successful record of conducting accurate feasibility studies, business plans, marketing analysis, or other activities relevant to Cooperative development center success.

(j) *Local support.* Applications will be reviewed for previous and expected local support for the Center, plans for coordinating with other developmental organizations in the proposed service area and coordination with state and local institutions. Support documentation should include recognition of rural values that balance employment opportunities with environmental stewardship and other positive rural amenities. Centers that demonstrate strong support from potential beneficiaries and formal evidence of the Center's intent to coordinate with other developmental organizations will receive more points than those not evidencing such support and formal intent.

(k) *Future support.* Applications that demonstrate their vision for funding center operations for future years, including diversification of funding sources and building in-house technical assistance capacity, will receive more points for this criterion.

### §4284.514 Grant closing.

(a) *Letter of Conditions.* The Agency will notify an approved applicant in writing, setting out the conditions under which the grant will be made.

(b) *Applicant's intent to meet conditions.* Upon reviewing the conditions and requirements in the letter of conditions, the applicant must complete, sign and return the Agency's "Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions," or, if certain conditions cannot be met, the applicant may propose alternate conditions to the Agency. The Agency must concur with any changes proposed to the letter of conditions by the appli-

cant before the application will be further processed.

(c) *Grant agreement.* The Agency and the grantee must enter into the Agency's "Agriculture Innovation Center Grant Agreement" prior to the advance of funds.

### §§4284.515–4284.599 [Reserved]

### §4284.600 OMB control number.

The reporting and recordkeeping requirements contained in this regulation have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and have been assigned OMB control number 0570-0006 in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

## Subpart G—Rural Business Opportunity Grants

SOURCE: 64 FR 71986, Dec. 23, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

### §4284.601 Purpose.

This subpart outlines Agency policies and authorizations and sets forth procedures for making grants to provide technical assistance for business development and conduct economic development planning in rural areas. The purpose of this program is to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs by:

(a) Promoting economic development that is sustainable over the long term through local effort without subsidies or external support and that leads to improvements in quality as well as the quantity of economic activity in the community;

(b) Catalyzing economic development projects by providing critical investments that enable effective development projects to be undertaken by rural communities that, with the Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG) assistance, will be able to identify their needs and take full advantage of available resources and opportunities;

(c) Focusing assistance on priority communities (defined in §4284.603); and

(d) Sponsoring economic development activities with significant potential to serve as examples of "best practices" that merit implementation in